

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04593 272329Z

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 PPT-01 SS-15

/032 W

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R 271135Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4601

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4593

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC LA (CONWAY, ROSEMARY ANN)

SUBJ: AMCIT ROSEMARY ANN CONWAY

REF: A. VIENTIANE 4483 B. STATE 149764

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON SOUTSAKHONE PATTHAMMAVONG OF FONMIN DIRECTORATE OF PROTOCOL AFTERNOON JUNE 27 TO RENEW OUR REQUEST FOR CONSULAR ACCESS TO MS. CONWAY AND TO ASK HIM TO TRANSMIT TO HER NEWSPAPERS AND AN UNSEALED LETTER FROM CONSUL. SOUTSAKHONE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND SAID HE WOULD REITERATE TO CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH OUR REQUEST FOR ACCESS AND ASK HIS PERMISSION TO TRANSMIT LETTER AND NEWSPAPERS. HE RDCD LETTER IN EMBOFF'S PRESENCE BUT MADE NO COMMENT ON IT. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT LAST CALL ON MS. CONWAY HAD BEEN JUNE 11 AND THAT CONSUL SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO VISIT HER AGAIN SOON. SOUTSAKHONE REPEATED NECESSITY FOR SOUBANH'S PERMISSION AND SUGGESTED THAT DEMARCHE AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN HIS OWN MIGHT BE SUCCESSFUL.

2. LETTER STATES IT IS BEING SENT BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE VISIT SINCE JULY 11; EXPRESSES HOPE THAT SUBJECT HAS RECEIVED FOOD, CLOTHING AND READING MATTER SENT THIS WEEK; REPORTS THAT BABY MAUREEN IS WELL AND STILL UNDER CARE OF MARTIN COUPLE IN UDORN; ASKS FOR APPROVAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04593 272329Z

GRANDPARENTS' PLAN (REF B) TO HAVE MAUREEN BROUGHT BACK TO

CHICAGO; ADVISES SUBJECT THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW SHE HAS A RIGHT TO CORRESPOND WITH EMBASSY; MENTIONS INQUIRIES FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS AND UOURNALISTS; REASURES SUBJECT THAT EMBASSY EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE; AND SAYS WE WILL SEND MORE FOOD AND READING MATTER FROM TIME TO TIME.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE YET TO BE INFORMED OF CHARGES, IF ANY, UNDER WHICH MS. CONWAY IS BEING HELD. IF THIS LATEST REQUEST FAILS TO ELICIT POSITIVE RESPONSE, WE CONTEMPLATE TAKING SOUTSAKHONE'S ADVICE AND WEIGHING IN ONCE AGAIN AT HIGHER LEVEL WEEK OF JUNE 30.

4. POL COUNSELOR LAST RAISED CASE WITH SOUBANH JUNE 24. ON THAT OCCASION SOUBANH DID LITTLE MORE THAN REPEAT CONTENTS OF FONMIN NOTE OF JUNE 23 (REF A). ASKED HOW PGNU EXPLAINED SUBJECT'S DETENTION FOR MORE THAN 72 HOURS WITHOUT FILING OF CHARGES, SOUBANH INVITED ATTENTION TO PHRASE IN ARTICLE I(D) OF VIENTIANE AGREEMENT WHICH STATES THAT "ALL LAWS, REGULATIONS AND ORGAINZATIONS PROHIBITING ABOVE-MENTIONED RIGHTS" (WHICH, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, INCLUDE "INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY") "MUST BE ABOLISHED"; THUS, SOUBANH SAID, SOME LAWS ARE INAPPLICABLE IN LIGHT OF "CURRENT REALITIES." PRESSED AS TO WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT EACH PGNU MINISTRY AND AGENCY COULD NOW INTERPRET LAO LAW AS IT SAW FIT, SOUBANH ONLY MURMURED SOMETHING ABOUT "CURRENT REALITIES" ONCE AGAIN.
CHAPMAN

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